

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of improving airline luggage inspection by a luggage screening entity, comprising:

making available to consumers a special lock having a combination lock portion and a master key lock portion, the master key lock portion for receiving a master key that can open the master key lock portion of any this special lock of this type, the special lock designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage, the special lock also having an indicia identification structure associated therewith that matches an indicia identification structure previously provided to the luggage screening entity, which special lock the luggage screening entity has agreed to process in accordance with a special procedure,

marketing the special lock to the consumers in a manner that conveys to the consumers that the special lock will be subjected by the luggage screening entity to the special procedure,

the identification structure signaling to a luggage screener of the luggage screening entity who is screening luggage that the luggage screening entity has agreed to subject the special lock associated with the identification structure to the special procedure and that the luggage screening entity has a master key that opens the special lock, and

the luggage screening entity acting pursuant to a prior agreement to look for the indicia identification structure while screening luggage and, upon finding said indicia identification structure on an individual piece of luggage, to use the master key

previously provided to the luggage screening entity to, if necessary, open the individual piece of luggage.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the master key lock portion includes a key hole on a bottom of the special lock that receives the master key.

3. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a step of making available to consumers a special lock involves mass producing the special lock and selling the special lock to the consumers.

4. (currently amended) A method of improving airline luggage inspection by a luggage screening entity , comprising:

making available to consumers a special lock having a first lock portion and a master key lock portion, the master key lock portion for receiving a master key that can open the master key lock portion of ~~any this~~ special lock ~~of this type~~, the special lock designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage, the special lock also having an indicia identification structure associated therewith that matches an indicia identification structure previously provided to the luggage screening entity, which special lock the luggage screening entity has agreed to process in accordance with a special procedure,

marketing the special lock to the consumers in a manner that conveys to the consumers that the special lock will be subjected by the luggage screening entity to the special procedure,

the identification structure signaling to a luggage screener of the luggage screening entity who is screening luggage that the luggage screening entity has agreed to subject the special lock associated with the identification structure to the special procedure and that the luggage screening entity has a master key that opens the special lock, and

the luggage screening entity acting pursuant to a prior agreement to look for the indicia identification structure while screening luggage and, upon finding said indicia identification structure on an individual piece of luggage, to use the master key previously provided to the luggage screening entity to, if necessary, open the individual piece of luggage.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the indicia identification structure is located directly on the special lock.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein a step of making available to consumers a special lock involves mass producing the special lock and selling the special lock to the consumers.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the indicia identification structure is located directly on the special lock.

8. (currently amended) A method of improving airline luggage inspection by a luggage screening entity, comprising:

making available to consumers a special lock having a combination lock portion and a master key lock portion, the master key lock portion for receiving a master key that can open the master key lock portion of any this special lock of this type, the special lock designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage, the special lock also having an indicia identification structure associated therewith that corresponds with a corresponding indicia identification structure previously provided to the luggage screening entity, which special lock the luggage screening entity has agreed to process in accordance with a special procedure,

marketing the special lock to the consumers in a manner that conveys to the consumers that the special lock will be subjected by the luggage screening entity to the special procedure,

the identification structure signaling to a luggage screener of the luggage screening entity who is screening luggage that the luggage screening entity has agreed to subject the special lock associated with the identification structure to the special procedure and that the luggage screening entity has a master key that opens the special lock, and

the luggage screening entity acting pursuant to a prior agreement to look for the corresponding indicia identification structure while screening luggage and, upon finding said corresponding indicia identification structure on an individual piece of luggage, to use the master key previously provided to the luggage screening entity to, if necessary, open the individual piece of luggage.

9. (currently amended) A method of improving airline luggage inspection by a

luggage screening entity, comprising:

making available to consumers a special lock having a first lock portion and a master key lock portion, the master key lock portion for receiving a master key that can open the master key lock portion of any this special lock ~~of this type~~, the special lock designed to be applied to an individual piece of airline luggage, the special lock also having an indicia identification structure associated therewith that corresponds with a corresponding indicia identification structure previously provided to the luggage screening entity, which special lock the luggage screening entity has agreed to process in accordance with a special procedure,

marketing the special lock to the consumers in a manner that conveys to the consumers that the special lock will be subjected by the luggage screening entity to the special procedure,

the identification structure signaling to a luggage screener of the luggage screening entity who is screening luggage that the luggage screening entity has agreed to subject the special lock associated with the identification structure to the special procedure and that the luggage screening entity has a master key that opens the special lock, and

the luggage screening entity acting pursuant to a prior agreement to look for the corresponding indicia identification structure while screening luggage and, upon finding said corresponding indicia identification structure on an individual piece of luggage, to use the master key previously provided to the luggage screening entity to, if necessary, open the individual piece of luggage.

10. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification structure is integrally formed with the special lock.

11. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the signaling involves a visual signal.

12. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the signaling involves a visual signal.

13. (new) The method of claim 4, wherein the identification structure is integrally formed with the special lock.

14. (new) The method of claim 4, wherein the signaling involves a visual signal.

15. (new) The method of claim 13, wherein the signaling involves a visual signal.

16. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the identification structure is integrally formed with the special lock.

17. (new) The method of claim 8, wherein the signaling involves a visual signal.

18. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the signaling involves a visual signal.

19. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the identification structure is integrally formed with the special lock.

20. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the signaling involves a visual signal.

21. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the signaling involves a visual signal.